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1. A method for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content based on a single query, the method comprising:
 - receiving a single query that includes at least one search term;
 - comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is stored on a local device to derive a first result and
 - comparing the received search term with electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result;
 - combining the first result and the second result into an amalgamated result; and
 - displaying the amalgamated result.
2. The method as in claim 1 wherein the local device includes a personal computing device.
3. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term includes simultaneously comparing the received search term with the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.
4. The method as in claim 1 wherein the amalgamated result is displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result or the second result.
5. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term includes comparing based on a single input action by a user.
6. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing the received search term automatically in response to the single input action by the user includes performing a first comparison of the received search term with the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and, at a separate time, performing a second comparison of the received search term with the electronic content stored on the remote device
7. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing against content stored on the local device and content stored on the remote device based on a single action received from a user is performed automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to

4 compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local
5 device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1 8. The method as in claim 5 wherein comparing against content stored on the
2 local device and content stored on the remote device based on a single action received from a
3 user is performed with the user pre-selecting to compare the received search term with both
4 the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on
5 the remote device.

1 9. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term
2 includes comparing the received search term, in response to the single query, with indexed
3 electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic content stored on
4 a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local device are
5 networked in a local area network.

1 10. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the
2 electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search term
3 includes comparing the received search term with the index.

1 11. The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the
2 index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local device.

1 12. The method as in claim 10 wherein creating the index includes creating the
2 index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the local device.

1 13. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an inverted index based
2 on the electronic content stored on the local device, wherein comparing the received search
3 term includes comparing the received search term with the inverted index.

1 14. The method as in claim 1 further comprising creating an index based on the
2 electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search term
3 includes comparing the received search term with the index.

1 15. The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local index based on
2 the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received search
3 term includes comparing the received search term with the local index.

1 16. The method as in claim 14 further comprising creating a local inverted index
2 based on the electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein comparing the received
3 search term includes comparing the received search term with the local inverted index.

1 17. The method as in claim 1 wherein comparing the received search term
2 includes performing a single comparison of the received search term with both the indexed
3 electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote
4 device.

1 18. The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user
2 of the local device, designating at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the
3 local device for comparison with the received search term.

1 19. The method as in claim 1 further comprising, in response to an action of a user
2 of the local device, designating at least one file location of the indexed electronic content
3 stored on the local device for comparison with the received search term.

1 20. A computer program stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated
2 signal for performing a search for both local electronic content and remote electronic content
3 based on a single query, comprising:

4 a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a single query that
5 includes at least one search term;

6 a comparing code segment that causes the computer to compare the received search
7 term automatically in response to the single query with indexed electronic content that is
8 stored on a local device to derive a first result and to compare the received search term with
9 electronic content that is stored on a remote device to derive a second result;

10 a combining code segment that causes the computer to combine the first result and the
11 second result into an amalgamated result; and

12 a displaying code segment that causes the computer to display the amalgamated
13 result.

1 21. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the local device includes a
2 personal computing device.

1 22. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to simultaneously compare the received search term with the indexed
3 electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote
4 device.

1 23. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the amalgamated result is
2 displayed without indicating whether the amalgamated result was derived from the first result
3 or the second result.

1 24. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to compare based on a single input action by a user.

1 25. The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to perform a first comparison of the received search term with the
3 indexed electronic content stored on the local device and, at a separate time, perform a
4 second comparison of the received search term with the electronic content stored on the
5 remote device.

1 26. The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment that
2 causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored
3 on the remote device based on a single action received from a user causes the computer to
4 perform automatically in a default state such that the user need not pre-select to cause the
5 computer to compare the received search term with both the indexed electronic content
6 stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the remote device.

1 27. The computer program of claim 24 wherein the comparing code segment that
2 causes the computer to compare against content stored on the local device and content stored
3 on the remote device based on a single action received from a user causes the computer to
4 perform with the user pre-selecting to cause the computer to compare the received search
5 term with both the indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic
6 content stored on the remote device.

1 28. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to compare the received search term, in response to the single query,
3 with indexed electronic content stored on a first local device and with indexed electronic
4 content stored on a second local device, wherein the first local device and the second local
5 device are networked in a local area network.

1 29. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code
2 segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on
3 the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the
4 received search term with the index.

1 30. The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment
2 causes the computer to create the index at an event pre-designated by a user of the local
3 device.

1 31. The computer program of claim 29 wherein the index creating code segment
2 causes the computer to create the index on-demand in response to an action by a user of the
3 local device.

1 32. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code
2 segment that causes the computer to create an inverted index based on the electronic content
3 stored on the local device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to
4 compare the received search term with the inverted index.

1 33. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising an index creating code
2 segment that causes the computer to create an index based on the electronic content stored on
3 the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to compare the
4 received search term with the index.

1 34. The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating
2 code segment that causes the computer to create a local index based on the electronic content
3 stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes the computer to
4 compare the received search term with the local index.

1 35. The computer program of claim 33 further comprising a local index creating
2 code segment that causes the computer to create a local inverted index based on the
3 electronic content stored on the remote device, wherein the comparing code segment causes
4 the computer to compare the received search term with the local inverted index.

1 36. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the comparing code segment
2 causes the computer to perform a single comparison of the received search term with both the
3 indexed electronic content stored on the local device and the electronic content stored on the
4 remote device.

1 37. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an
2 action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to
3 designate at least one type of indexed electronic content stored on the local device for
4 comparison with the received search term.

1 38. The computer program of claim 20 further comprising, in response to an
2 action of a user of the local device, a designating code segment that causes the computer to
3 designate at least one file location of the indexed electronic content stored on the local device
4 for comparison with the received search term.

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